

REMARKS

In the Office action, the Examiner has identified four patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, and has required applicant to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits. The species have been identified as:

Group I: Figs. 1-5;
Group II: Figs. 6-7;
Group III: Figs. 8-9;
Group IV: Fig. 10

In order to satisfy the requirement, applicant elects Group I, Figs. 1-5. It is respectfully submitted that at least claims 1-13 and 29-30 read on the invention illustrated in Figs. 1-5. It is further submitted that at least claims 1-2 and 29-30 are generic to all of the species identified by the Examiner.

It is noted that, upon allowance of a generic claim, the applicants will be given the opportunity to have claims directed toward the non-elected species examined. The Examiner is asked to confirm this understanding.

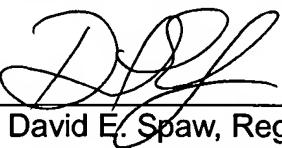
It is further noted that Group IV is no truly a separate species of invention, but rather illustrates a structure for connecting a tongue from a second cart to a hitch of a first cart. This structure may be used in conjunction with any of the retractable tongue locking systems of the present invention, which are illustrated in Figs. 1-9.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. HON-15052.

Respectfully submitted,

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